

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 287

By Yager

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Betsy Ross York Lowrey on the occasion of her ninetieth birthday.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we should pay tribute to those citizens who are celebrating special occasions in their estimable lives; and

WHEREAS, Betsy Ross York Lowrey celebrated her ninetieth birthday on February 25, 2023, a milestone commemorated as yet another precious souvenir of life's rich pageant; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Lowrey grew up in Pall Mall as one of only two girls in the family of Sergeant Alvin C. York and Gracie York, and she graduated from the school that her father founded, York Agricultural Institute, in 1951; and

WHEREAS, she married her high school sweetheart, Howard Lowrey, a veteran who served with great distinction in the United States Air Force, in 1952, and the couple eventually moved to Bowling Green, Kentucky, where Mrs. Lowrey worked at Western Kentucky University until her retirement in 1995; and

WHEREAS, a woman of great faith, Mrs. Lowrey is a founding member of Bowling Green First Church of the Nazarene, and she served the church well as a district layman, a Sunday school teacher, a missionary president, and a member of the Kentucky Nazarene Missionary Council; and

WHEREAS, although the couple never had children of their own, the Lowreys raised their twin nephews, Barry and Bryan Payne, who both went on to serve with distinction in the United States Army, and Mrs. Lowrey enjoys playing an active role in the lives of her four grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and a host of nieces, nephews, and cousins; and

WHEREAS, she is a founding member of the nonprofit Sgt. York Patriotic Foundation, that preserves and promotes the outstanding legacy of her father's lifelong labors for education, patriotism, and opportunity for Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, bestowed with amazing character and virtue, Mrs. Lowrey follows well in the footsteps of her famous father, yet she has also carved a path of her own that would surely render him proud; and

WHEREAS, we wish to grasp this golden opportunity to specially recognize one of Tennessee's most outstanding citizens on this very special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate Betsy Ross York Lowrey on the celebration of her ninetieth birthday and extend to her our best wishes for many happy returns of the day.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.